

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2911

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS AMMAN 6580

BELGRAD AND ROME FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

USIA FOR IOP/MN

GENEVA FOR MEPCDEL

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TAGS: PFOR, JO, XF

SUBJECT: KING HUSSEIN INTERVIEW

1. SUMMARY: JORDANIAN PRESS NOV 4 DOMINATED BY KING HUSSEIN
INTEVIEW WITH BRITISH TV IN WHICH KING DISCUSSES RABAT
DECISIONS AND NOTES THAT RESIDENT PALESTINIANS WILL BE ALLOWED
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TO CHOOSE NATIONALITY. SCHEDULE OF SECRETARY'S MID-EAST VISITS

ALSO FRONT-PAGE NEWS. END SUMMARY.

2. ALL JORDANIAN DAILIES NOV 4 GIVE BANNER HEADLINES TO KING HUSSEIN INTERVIEW WITH BRITISH INDEPENDENT TV. AD-DUSTOUR: "HUSSEIN: WE ARE THE PEOPLE NEAREST TO THE PALESTINIANS." AR-RAYY. "IMPORTANT POLITICAL STATEMENT BY HUSSEIN CONCERNING THE CURRENT SITUATION: THE PALESTINIANS ARE OUR PEOPLE AND WE ARE THE CLOSEST TO THE PALESTINIANS". IN INTERVIEW, BROADCAST ON JORDAN TV EVENING NOV 3, KING NOTED THAT PRE-RABAT GOJ POLICY HAD BEEN TO POSTPONE ANY MAJOR DECISION ON FUTURE OF WEST BANK, ALL THE WHILE PREPARING TO GO TO GENEVA TO RECOVER OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. YET AT RABAT HE SAW THAT HE MUST CONSENT TO UNANIMOUS DECISION. "THE QUESTION PALESTINE CONCERNS THE PALESTINIANS ALONE, AND IT WAS FOUND PREFERABLE TO PLACE THE QUESTION IN ITS NATURAL POSITION AND TO GIVE THE PLO THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONDUCTING ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM, WITH THE SUPPORT OF ALL THE OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES, INCLUDING JORDAN." KING SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT GIVE OPINION ON WISDOM OF THAT DECISION, LEAVING HISTORY TO JUDGE. "YET WE FEEL THAT WE ARE THE PEOPLE CLOSEST TO THE PALESTINIANS...MY GREAT GRANDFATHER IS BURIED IN JERUSALEM, WHILE MY GRANDFATHER WAS MARTYRED IN THE HOLY CITY WHILE I WAS AT HIS SIDE..WE ARE ALL ONE PEOPLE. I HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT NOTHING WILL CHANGE WITH RESPECT TO OUR PEOPLE ON THE WEST BANK; THE BRIDGES WILL REMAIN OPEN, AND WE SHALL CONTINUE TO OFFER AID... UNTIL A NEW SITUATION CRYSTALLIZES AND AID BECOMES UNNECESSARY. PALESTINIANS ON THE EAST BANK WILL BE OFFERED THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHOOSE, AND WE SHALL WELCOME THOSE OF THEM WHO PREFER TO REMAIN IN JORDAN AS JORDANIAN CITIZENS; THIS WILL NOT JEOPARDIZE THEIR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AS PALESTINAINS IN THEIR ORIGINAL HOMELAND. THOSE WHO WISH TO RETAIN THEIR PALESTINIAN IDENTITY WILL REMAIN AS OUR GUEST AND WILL ENJOY THE SAME RIGHTS ENJOYED BY ANY OTHER ARAB PRESENT IN JORDAN." KING ADDED THAT GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS WILL NOT TAKE PLACE WITH JORDAN AS PARTICIPANT; JORDAN, HOWEVER, WILL OFFER PLO ALL NECESSARY ASSISTANCE. "AS FOR ISRAEL, SHE IS THE PARTY BEST QUALIFIED TO JUDGE WHETHER OR NOT TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE PLO. WHY SHOULDN'T SHE?" KING CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT DEGREE TO WHICH CURRENT SITUATION WILL CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE DEPENDS ON ISRAEL.

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3. ALL DAILIES GIVE FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT TO SECRETARY'S MID-EAST TRAVEL SCHEDULE, GIVING WEDNESDAY EVENING NOV 6 AS AMMAN ARRIVAL DATE. PAPERS LIST EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA, JORDAN, SYRIA AND ISRAEL AS LOCATIONS. "SOURCES CLOSE TO THE SECRETARY SAID THAT HE SHOWS "LITTLE OPTIMISM" CONCERNING THE CHANCES FOR AN EARLY START TO NEGOTIATIONS."

4. DAILY AS-SABAH QUOTES DENIAL FROM LOCAL LAWYER IBRAHIM BAKR THAT HE IS AMONG NOMINEES TO FORM PLO GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE, AS WAS REPORTED IN BEIRUT PAPER. BAKR IS JORDANIAN RESIDENT AND FORMER PLO DEP CHAIRMAN IN JORDAN AND FORMER PLO SPOKESMAN.

5. MAJOR EDITORIALS CONTINUE TO PRAISE WISDOM OF KING HUSSEIN'S DECISION AT RABAT. AR-RAYY NOTES "EXCEPT FOR THE SHORT PERIOD OF THE BRITISH MANDATE, WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ONE PEOPLE." EDITORIAL IN AD-DUSTOUR, ENTITLED "SENSIBLE TALK," CITES SENATOR FULBRIGHT'S "WARNING" THAT U.S. CONCENTRATION ON JEWISH PROBLEM IS HARMING U.S. INTERESTS. "THIS IS GOOD ADVICE. THE ARABS HAVE OPENED THE DOOR OF REPENTENCE TO THE U.S. BUT IF THE ARABS FIND THAT THIS GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO STAY TIED TO WORLD JEWRY, THEN THE ARABS WILL CLOSE THAT DOOR FOR GOOD."
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